

Elimination of requirement to obtain medical practitioner signature on prehospital patient care report is delayed.

June 25, 2013

The Office of EMS recently announced changes pertaining to the elimination of the requirement to obtain the signature of the medical practitioner who assumes responsibility for the patient at the hospital on the prehospital patient care report for an incident when a drug is administered or an invasive procedure is performed. Although the law is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2013, changes to regulations are necessary.

During the 2013 session of the Virginia General Assembly, several bills (HB 1499 and SB 773) were introduced and subsequently passed that amended §54.1-3408 of the *Code of Virginia* permitting certified EMS personnel acting within their scope of practice to administer drugs and devices pursuant to an oral or written order or standing protocol.

Before the Office of EMS can remove language in the EMS Regulations that requires EMS personnel to obtain the signature of the medical practitioner who assumes responsibility for the patient, the Board of Pharmacy must remove language pertaining to medical practitioner signature in their existing regulations that appears in 12VAC110-20-500. The Board of Pharmacy met on June 18, 2013 and adopted changes in regulation that should be effective within the next two (2) months.

Until changes to the BoP Regulations occur, EMS personnel will continue to be required to obtain the signature of the medical practitioner who assumes responsibility for the patient at the hospital on the prehospital patient care report. If the patient is not transported to the hospital or if the attending medical practitioner at the hospital refuses to sign the record, a copy of this record shall be signed and placed in delivery to the hospital pharmacy who was responsible for that medication kit exchange by the agency's operational medical director within seven days (7) of the administration.

The OEMS apologizes for any inconvenience the delay in the implementation of these changes may cause. The OEMS will provide regular updates to the EMS community through our website and social media outlets.

Once the Board of Pharmacy regulations are effective and we are able to implement these changes to the EMS Regulations, notification will be widely disseminated announcing the date that the new procedures pertaining to medical practitioner signatures on patient care reports will take effect.

In the interim, if you have questions, please contact your area EMS Program Representative or Mr. Michael Berg, Regulation and Compliance Manager, VA Office of EMS at 1-800-523-6019 (toll free in VA), 804-888-9131 (direct) or by email at michael.berg@vdh.virginia.gov.